

THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE

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from the Japanese. Early in 1932 a Manchuria-wide government, known as Manchoukuo, was organized, ostensibly by Chinese and Mongols, but manifestly with Japanese assistance and re-enforced by Japanese troops and many Japanese advisers. On February 18th, 1932, Manchoukuo declared its independence of China. P'u-i, the last Emperor of the Ch'ing dynasty, who, it will be recalled, had ruled from 1908 to 1912 under the reign title of Hsian T'ung, was asked to be the head or Regent. He accepted and was inaugurated in his new capital, Changchun (soon re-named Hsinching, the "new capital"), on March 9th, 1932. Later in the year Japan officially recognized the new regime and negotiated with it a defensive alliance. Obviously Manchoukuo could not exist without outside support and neutral observers believed it to be a puppet created and controlled by the Japanese.

The new government, upheld by Japanese bayonets, had an uneasy course. Much of Manchuria was overrun by irregular troops, by bandits, and by volunteer corps which received aid from the Chinese south of the Great Wall. The Japanese found the ensuing guerrilla warfare disappointingly expensive and prolonged.

By 1933 Japan seemed to have pacified Manchuria fairly thoroughly. Early in January, 1933, Manchoukuoan-Japanese forces began the invasion of the province of Jehol, which Japan claimed to be part of Manchoukuo. Within a few weeks the Chinese defense crumbled and the occupation was completed. Chang Hsiieh-liang, discredited once more by his failure to defend the North, resigned and left Peking, though later taking high

office under Nanking. In April, 1933, the Japanese, alleging the necessity of protecting the recently won boundaries against Chinese aggression, moved south of the Great Wall.

In the meantime in China proper a vigorous boycott was organized which seriously cut into Japanese trade. Friction occurred, notably in Shanghai, stirred up by lawless elements on both sides. The Japanese believed the Chinese Government to be at least partly responsible for the agitation against them and peremptorily demanded the dissolution of the Shanghai boycott associations. Although the Chinese municipal authorities eventually expressed a willingness to comply, Japanese marines, supported by the fleet, occupied by force Chapei, a densely populated